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Appl. No. 10/681,497
Response of OA of 4/9/2008

Amended and New Claims

16. (Currently amended) In the method for forming composite products consisting of a thermoplastic material, a lignocellulosic material, and at least one of the group consisting of a lubricant, a cross-linking agent, a UV stabilizer, a blowing agent, an inhibitor, and a coupling agent such as to increase their resistance to surface visual impairment caused by mold attack, the improvement which consists of incorporating an amount of a boron-containing fungicide selected from the group of zinc borate, synthetic calcium borate, colemanite, ulexite, ~~beric acid~~, or mixtures thereof in the range of from about 2 to 12 percent by weight of said composite product prior to forming said composite product.

17. (New) In the method for forming composite products consisting of polyethylene or high density polyethylene, a lignocellulosic material, a coupling agent, a color additive and at least one of the group consisting of an antioxidant, a UV stabilizer, and a lubricant such as to increase their resistance to surface visual impairment caused by mold attack, the improvement which consists of incorporating an amount of a boron-containing fungicide selected from the group of colemanite, ulexite, or mixtures thereof in the range of from about 2 to 12 percent by weight of said composite product prior to forming said composite product.